United Press International

Green Beret Capt. Leland Brumley Jr. and family at Oklahoma City news conference. He said he was "shocked and disbelieving" when arrested in Vietnam.

Rivers Said To Force Beret Halt

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (AP)—Murder charges against eight Green Berets were dropped after Rep. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) threatened to have three of the men testify publicly before his House Armed Services Committee, Time magazine reported today.

The magazine said in its current issue that Rivers brought pressure on Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor, Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird in an attempt to have the men freed.

Finally, according to the account, Rivers told President Nixon's congressional aide Bryce Harlow that he would "give three of the Berets a chance to rebut all charges in public hearings before his committee."

Time said Rivers also "reminded" Harlow that he was "a chief advocate" of the president's ABM authorization bill, then before the House.

Time also reported that Rivers quarreled "sharply" with Resor over the matter. It said that both Packard and Laird "seemed unhappy with Resor's stand," but did not want to overrule him. Resor himself finally announced the dropping of charges, saying the CIA refused to allow its agents to testify. Time called this "only a pretext, and a transparently clumsy one at that."